

Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer

11th Floor, Commerce Place, 10155 – 102 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 4L5
 Phone: (780) 422-9021 Fax: (780) 422-3688 e-mail: acat@gov.ab.ca

Meeting Name		Location	Date	
Biological Sciences Articulation Committee		Medicine Hat College	May 2, 2013	
Chair: Jim Thomas (University of Lethbridge)		Teleconference: Phone #: 1-866-792-1317 Conference ID: 7187343		
Committee Members to Attend			Accepted	Attended
1.	Mark Degner (Vice-chair) – MacEwan University			Y
2.	Sandra MacDougall – Red Deer College			Y
3.	Brent Selinger – University of Lethbridge			Y
4.	Sean Irwin - Grande Prairie Regional College			Y
5.	Todd Nickle – Mount Royal University			Y
6.	Dr. Michael Hynes – University of Calgary			Y
7.	Anna Hughes – St. Mary's University College			Y
8.	Robert Cuny – Lakeland College			Y
9.	John Horsman – Medicine Hat College			Y
10.	Brier Albano – Medicine Hat College			Y
11.	Tom MacAlister – Mount Royal University			Y
12.	Verna Penner – Red Deer College			Y
13.	John Wood – Kings University			Y
14.	Brenda Fryza - University of Alberta			Y
15.				

ACAT Secretariat Staff to Attend			Accepted	Attended
1.	Jim Samide – Enterprise and Advanced Education			Y
2.	Eric Dohei – ACAT Secretariat			Y

AGENDA		Time Allotted
1.	Welcome	
2.	Institution Reports	
3.	Changes to 2013-2014 <i>Alberta Transfer Guide</i> Biological Sciences Transfer Chart	
4.	ACAT Update	
5.	Other Business	
6.	Next Meeting	
7.	Adjournment	

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Meeting Notes	
<u>Welcome</u>	There was some confusion with circulation of an electronic version of the meeting minutes from last year. An electronic copy will be circulated shortly.
<u>Institution Reports</u>	
Grant MacEwan	Nothing new to report. No issues with transfer at this time. They are moving ahead with their degrees and have delivered fourth year courses at least once.
Grand Prairie Regional College	No concerns at this time.
Kings University College	John Wood will be the new contact for this committee. Transfers are working okay. Typically it is a small number and handled case by case. Just finishing their review of their biology program. Don't anticipate any major changes to the first two years of their program.
Lakeland College	Some changes were made to Lakeland Biological Sciences transfer chart this year. Botany 205 will not be offered in 2013/2013 and will be replaced by Microbiology in 2014/2015.
Medicine Hat College	Transfers are working fine at this time. Enrollment has dropped slightly in some courses, but can be variable from year to year.
Mount Royal University	No outstanding issues on transfer. They are just embarking on a five year review in biology for our process as well as the Quality Council review. There are some changes that will likely arise as a consequence of the review, such as making Biological Sciences a major rather than having majors in Cell and Molecular, or Health Science. However, these changes are at least a year away. Todd Nickle added that a lab component will be added to the MRU genetics course so that it will be recognized for transferability to the U of A.
St. Mary's University College	No problems with the transfer agreement. A new proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Biology has been submitted to the CAUC and are in the process of getting it approved. Applications and enrollment for university transfer science are up about 20%.
Red Deer College	Currently no issues with transferability. Currently don't know where administration is making cuts and how that will affect our department.
University of Calgary	They have just finished the second year of "new" first year biology courses 241 and 243 and it is going okay. They are still accepting courses equivalent to 231 and 233 for transfer and trying to make each decision in the way that is most favourable for incoming students. The pressure on enrollment is incredible and high school admission is up to 86% cutoff, and transfers are getting more difficult because the transfer grade level tends to be well above the 3.0 so they didn't admit as many transfer students last year as they have in the past, and that trend is likely to continue. The other changes in their program are that they are

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	now admitting first and second students directly into honours and specialized programs like ecology, biochemistry and zoology. New organismal biology course Biology 371 will start this fall. It is not in the table for transfers for this year, but it should be included after that.
University of Alberta	No transfer issues at this point.
University of Lethbridge	Very few issues related to transfer. The registrar pointed out that in the transfer guide, Grant MacEwan had Biology 211 listed and they would like some additional information on that course. Also, although they use the transfer guide, most often they check course by course. A suggestion has been a need for ACAT to have some kind of conversion program or software to allow different computer systems at colleges and universities to interact more readily rather than taking a number of weeks sometimes to transfer information. After the Ministry provides direction about the budget cuts and post-secondary institutions in Alberta, it is likely that there will be much more to discuss at next year's meeting.
<u>Changes to 2013-2014 Alberta Transfer Guide Biological Sciences Transfer Chart (Eric Dohei)</u>	There are not many changes to report. They are interesting in exploring ways to make updating and sharing the information contained within the Alberta Transfer Guide Chart. The question is what would work commonly among the institutions. In terms of the chart, the updating has been going on for some time. They communicate with the contact people at each institution who connect with the faculty. They are looking for feedback or concerns from this group before finalizing the document.
<u>ACAT Update (Eric)</u>	The ACAT Council is working on developing their strategic priorities for next year to inform their action plan. The development of the 2013-2016 action plan development has been deferred. The two day strategic priorities meeting will be held at the end of this month. Senior ministry staff will be on hand to talk about the ministry's direction. ACAT is intending to reflect on its priorities and mandate and which align well with the Ministry, and to identify new areas going forward that they would have an opportunity to have input or provide leadership in. There are three main areas that they have subcommittees focussing on: (1) Admissions. Their intent is to examine what role ACAT has in developing best practices around admission practices. This work is in early stages. (2) Learner pathways committee. This committee is focussed on the role of learning outcomes in facilitating transfer. E.g. how learning outcomes could be applied in developing block transfer opportunities. Work has begun on deconstructing agreements that currently exist and examining in the context of outcomes that have been defined. A pilot is being developed which will be tested further down the road. (3) Articulation subcommittee. This committee focuses on

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	developing best practices for the subcommittees, organizing the chair event which held its inaugural meeting last year, and ultimately determining where ACAT will expand new articulation committees.
<u>Secretariat Update</u>	On the Secretariat side, Jim Samide has been working on the transfer system which is the IT system through which institutions can negotiate the transfer agreements and ultimately is a database which their online search engine pulls the agreements from. Jim is also taking over from Eric the primary contact on all of the Articulation committees. Charts are currently being updated to go online. They no longer produce a hard copy of the transfer guide. All resources are strictly online on the Transfer Alberta website. The website is currently being overhauled to make it more user-friendly. They are also working to increase their profile among advisers across the different institutions. Given the recent budget, their area has gained profile, particularly around the issues of student transfer and mobility.
<u>Other Business</u>	<p>Lethbridge and the U of C are looking at accreditation in biochemistry and are working with the Chemistry Society and other groups as to what might be needed for accreditation. That may have some impact on courses in the future. This is in early stages and should be revisited next year in terms of its impact on biological sciences. As well, the Agronomy Association in the province has now identified a number of courses in the biological sciences that students must have in order to be accredited with the Agronomy Association, and we may want to request an update for the next meeting.</p> <p>Question from Brier (Medicine Hat College): is anyone recognizing the block still? Even the title on the chart has changed. U of C (Michael Hynes) stated that they still accept the block, but that very few students who transfer have all of the courses required for a block transfer. MRU, U of L, Grant MacEwan and Mount Royal all indicated that they still support the block, but that they also see very few transfer students with the full block requirements.</p> <p>Sandra MacDougall will update the ACAT institutional contact list.</p>
<u>Next Year's Meeting Location</u>	Mount Royal has offered to host AIBA next year and is thus the most likely location for the 2014 ACAT Biological Sciences Meeting as well.
<u>Meeting adjourned at 10: 55 a.m.</u>	

Delegated Tasks	Person Responsible
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	Update the institutional contact list for this committee	Sandra MacDougall (Red Deer College)